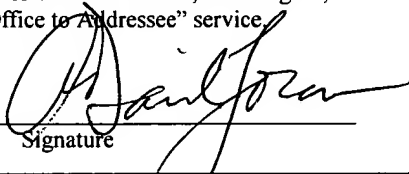


EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date: November 23, 1999 Label No. EG 430 341 018 US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above I deposited this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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B.L.

Atty. Dkt. No. 000973/0003

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of  
Michael SEUL and Richard H. EBRIGHT

Serial No: Not Yet Known

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: COLOR-ENCODING AND IN-SITU INTERROGATION OF MATRIX-COUPLED  
CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

Priority International  
Application: PCT/US98/10917

International  
Filing Date: 22 May 1998

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November 22, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with the filing of a Continuation application identified above based on copending prior PCT International Application No. PCT/US98/10719 which designated the United States.

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows: